

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A purchase request approving apparatus capable of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance, comprising:

display means for displaying a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval [[is]] has been requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

selecting means for selecting an article, in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

display control means for executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and for executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window has an approval button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the rejection processing window has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article;

purchase approving means for updating status of storing the selected article as an approved article in the database, and for deleting the selected article from the list in

the list window, and for sending an e-mail to a client which has requested an approval of the selected article to notify the client of the approval of the article, wherein the purchase approving means operates in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window; and

purchase rejection means for storing updating status of the selected article as a rejected article in the database and for sending e-mail to a client which has requested for an approval of the selected article to notify of the rejection of the article, wherein the purchase rejection means operates in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a purchase request for approval is requested from a requester belonging to a group based on predetermined common information, and wherein said apparatus further comprises requester group setting means for setting a plurality of desired requester groups for which approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined by said purchase approving means in accordance with the predetermined common information.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and the predetermined common information is an identification code, identification codes representing each section of the company.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising purchase request means for inputting (i) information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article and storing the input information in the database, and wherein said purchase request means includes display means for displaying, before the input information is stored in the database, a list of specific information associated with a person who can approve or reject the purchase request from the requester, the requestor inputting (I) the input information and (ii) specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group by said requester groups setting means, and selecting a desired person from whom the requester requests approval to purchase, using the displayed list.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the information representing approval of purchase of the selected article is input and a purchase price of the article exceeds a predetermined amount, said purchase approving means notifies a user of the purchase price exceeding the predetermined amount.

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising purchase request means for (I) inputting information associated with the

desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article and storing the input information in the database.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means is a browser of an Internet, the browser being executed by said purchase request approving apparatus connected to a communication network, and wherein said purchase approving means is constructed by a predetermined Web page displayed by the browser.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said purchase request approving apparatus is a client terminal connected to a communication network which can use an intranet environment.

10. (Currently Amended) A purchase request approving method of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance using a computer, said method comprising:

a display step of display displaying a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval [[is]] has been requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

a selecting step of selecting an article in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

a display control step of executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and of executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window has an approval button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the rejection processing window has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article;

a purchase approving step of storing updating status of the selected article as an approved article in the database, and of deleting the selected article from the list in the list window, and of sending e-mail to a client which requested an approval of the selected article to notify of the approval of the article, wherein the purchase approving step operates in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window; and

a purchase rejection step of storing updating status of the selected article as a rejected article in the database and of sending e-mail to a client which has requested an approval of the selected article to notify the rejection of the article, wherein the purchase rejection step operates in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.

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11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein a purchase request for approval is requested from a requester belonging to a group based on predetermined common information, and wherein said method further comprises a

requester group setting step of setting a plurality of desired requester groups for which approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined in said purchase approving step in accordance with the predetermined common information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and the predetermined common information is an identification code, identification codes representing each section of the company.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a purchase request step of inputting (I) information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article, and storing the input information in the database, and wherein said purchase request step includes a display step of displaying, before the input information is stored in the database, a list of specific information associated with a person who can approve or reject the purchase request from the requester, the requester inputting (I) the input information and (ii) specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group in said requester groups setting step, and selecting a desired person from which the requester requests approval to purchase, using the displayed list.

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14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein, in said display step, a browser of an Internet is executed on a client terminal connected to a

communication network to display the items of information associated with the articles, and wherein in said purchase approving step, information representing approval or rejection of purchase is input to a window on a predetermined Web page displayed by the browser.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the client terminal is connected to a communication network which can use an intranet environment.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing a purchase request approving method of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance using a computer, said method comprising:

a display step of displaying a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval [[is]] has been requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

a selecting step of selecting an article in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

a display control step of executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and of executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window has an approval button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the rejection processing window has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article;

a purchase approving step of storing updating status of the selected article as an approved article in the database, and of deleting the selected article from the list in the list window, and of sending e-mail to a client which requested an approval of the selected article to notify of the approval of the article, wherein the purchase approving step operates in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window; and

a purchase rejection step of storing updating status of the selected article as a rejected article in the database and of sending e-mail to a client which has requested an approval of the selected article to notify the rejection of the article, wherein the purchase rejection step operates in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising receiving means for receiving e-mail from a requester having a URL to display the list window.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising mail sending means for sending e-mail to a client, which has requested the approval of the selected articles, in response to selecting the approval button or reject button, the e-mail having a URL to display the status of the selected article.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the list window has a select box corresponding to each listed article, and said selecting means selects an article, in accordance with a user operation, by selecting the select box corresponding to the article.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising a receiving step of receiving e-mail from a requester having a URL to display the list window.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising a mail sending step of sending e-mail to a client, which has requested the approval of the selected articles, in response to selecting the approval button or reject button, the e-mail having a URL to display the status of the selected article.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the list window has a select box corresponding to each listed article, and said selecting step selects an article, in accordance with a user operation, by selecting the select box corresponding to the article.